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Ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL PROJECT

Request For Proposal Released To Select Architectural Firm

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is supporting the New Women's College Hospital as it embarks on major steps forward with its redevelopment project, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

"This announcement marks a new stage in the development of the New Women's College Hospital as a provincial leader in women's health care," said Smitherman. "This is a clear sign of our government's commitment to this hospital and the important role it plays in our health care system."

Today's announcement includes:

- The approval of the hospital's business case for a new building
- The Request for Proposal (RFPs) to select an architectural firm to lead the planning, design and compliance aspects of the project

"These are important steps for the New Women's College Hospital," said Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal David Caplan. "The project is part of the government's five-year $30 billion plus infrastructure investment plan that represents the biggest investment in health care infrastructure in more than a generation."

The compliance design team will further develop the Site Master Plan and prepare key documents including project specific design output specifications. These documents will form the guidelines and performance requirements within which the successful building team must work when preparing the overall design.

"We are thrilled and delighted that the government has advanced our redevelopment project to this next phase so quickly," said Marilyn Emery, President and CEO, the New Women's College Hospital. "Our new building will enable us to fulfill our mandate as Ontario's first stand-alone academic ambulatory hospital, while continuing to champion state-of-the-art healthcare for women and their families."

The RFP, available on www.merx.com, closes on October 10th, 2007.

This is the latest example of how the McGuinty government is on the side of Ontario families who want improved health care for women. Other initiatives include:

- Restoring independent governance to Women's College Hospital, which will become a state of the art ambulatory care centre for women
- Launching a life-saving HPV immunization program for 84,000 young women in Grade 8

- Supporting the growth of midwifery in Ontario, including an increase in the number of midwives by 67. This investment will mean better care for up to 1,200 women and their babies.

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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